

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



Contracts and Procurement Division

**DETERMINATION AND FINDINGS
FOR A
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT**

CAPTION:	Simulator for National Challenger STEM Innovation Center
PROPOSED CONTRACTOR:	Challenger Center for Space Science Education ("Challenger Center")
PROGRAM AGENCY:	DC Department of General Services
AUTHORIZATION:	Title 27 DCMR Section 4718.1

1. MINIMUM NEED:

The Department of General Services ("DGS" or the "Department") requires the services of a firm to create a unique Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program learning experience that includes, but is not limited to, fabrication, delivery and installation of a Mission Control, Space Station, and Transport Room Simulator for a National Challenger STEM Innovation Center to be located in the District of Columbia.

2. PRICE:

DGS will pay a fixed price of \$975,000 for the items and services described below.

3. TERM:

From date of award through January 2, 2015.

4. FACTS WHICH JUSTIFY SINGLE AVAILABLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT:

Challenger Center for Space Science Education was created after the Challenger Shuttle Tragedy by the families of the seven crew members as a living legacy to the educational mission of that flight. Congress set up a congressional trust in perpetuity administered by NASA to fund many of the activities of the Challenger Center. Now 28 years later, Challenger Center has grown to include 45 Challenger Learning Centers located throughout the nation including three international sites.

Each Challenger Learning Center is a turnkey learning facility that includes a fully functional Mission Control Room and Space Station. The District learning center will also include the first Transport Room. Collectively these components will make up the simulator and will come fully installed with hardware, software and simulated educational programming. Mission Control is modeled after NASA's Mission Control. The Space Station is a modular area that serves as the International Space Station. A Transport Room is a launch vehicle that simulates the trip from earth to the International Space Station. The Simulator is

completely assembled, inspected, and installed according to an approved site specific floor plan.

The Simulator will enable students to fly a mission in a simulated environment that is created from computer technology, real science data, hand-on activities and STEM related content. The learning center can offer up to four separate mission scenarios such as “Rendezvous with a Comet”, “Return to the Moon”, “Encounter Earth” and “Voyage to Mars”.

After informal market research was conducted via the internet, Challenger Center was found to be the only organization that provides simulation space themed STEM programs to the educational community in a physical environment. Challenger Center is the sole source for the design, animation, and fabrication of the Challenger Learning Center. Challenger Center owns the trademarks, and copyrights for the Challenger Learning Center simulators and its educational programming.

In addition, Challenger Center developed and owns the proprietary software that is used in all of the simulated missions and is the sole licensor of this software to the 45 learning centers. Outside agents are not employed to sell Challenger Center learning centers and the purchase, delivery and installation is only offered through Challenger Center.

5. CERTIFICATION BY PROGRAM MANAGER:

I hereby certify that the above findings are true, correct and complete.

Program Manager

Date

DETERMINATION

Based on the authority and certified findings above, it is hereby determined that the use of the sole source procurement method with Challenger Center, is justified and in the best interest of the District.

Brian Hanlon
Director & Chief Contracting Officer
Date

Date